
YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. C. E. EDWARDS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

For the Year 1966



The Medical Officer's Report

To : The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1966.

The health of the district during the year has on the whole been good, the majority of deaths being in the higher age groups. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic disease. Eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported and have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at the Adelina Patti Memorial Hospital, Craigynos, Penycae.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice creams in accordance with the regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

The rehousing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

I wish to tender my best thanks to the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

CREIGHTON E. EDWARDS,
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

SEWAGE

The whole district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district consists of two parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower, their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population : 10,610.

Industries : Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	<i>Ystradgynlais</i>			<i>Brecon</i>
	<i>R.D.C.</i>			<i>C.C.</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of legitimate live births ..	57	64	121	761
No. of illegitimate live births ..	2	3	5	36
Total live births	59	67	126	797
Birth Rate per 1000 population				
1966			11.88	14.63
Registrar General comparability				
factor			1.07	1.12
No. of still births legitimate ..	2	1	3	16
No. of still births illegitimate ..	0	0	0	3
Illegitimate live births per cent				
of total live births ..	61	68	129	816
Still births per 1000 live and				
still births			23.26	23.28

DEATHS

	M.	F.	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total deaths for district ..	83	72	155	763
Crude death rate per 1000 of population			14.61	14.00
Registrar General comparability factor			1.07	
Corrective Death Rate ..			15.63	

MATERNAL MORTALITY

NIL

NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	1	1	2	13
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births			15.87	16.31

Neo Natal Mortality Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age

Legitimate	1	1	2	11
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	2	11
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1000 live Births			15.87	13.80

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age :

Legitimate	1	1	2	11
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	2	11
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 live births ..			15.87	13.80

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age plus number of still births :			
	M.	F.	Total
No. of deaths under 1 week ..	1	1	2
No. of still births	2	1	3
Perinatal mortality rate ..			38.77

CANCER DEATHS

No. of deaths from malignant neoplasms and lymphatic neoplasms			
	16	10	26
Cancer death rate			2.45

CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung			
bronchus	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic			
neoplasms	9	6	15
Leukaemia, Aleukeamia ..	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous			
system	17	16	33
Coronary disease, angina ..	21	19	40
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	2	5	7
Other circulatory disease ..	6	5	11
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	7	1	8
Other diseases of respiratory			
system	5	2	7
Congenital malformations ..	1	0	1

	M.	F.	Total
Ulcer	2	0	2
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	0	5	5
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle accidents ..	0	0	0
All other accidents ..	0	1	1
Suicide	1	1	2
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All Causes	83	72	155

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Measles	184
Meningitis	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Food Poisoning	3

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified :

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	5	3	8
Non-respiratory	0	0	0

LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical : Beck Laboratory General Hospital,
Swansea

Water Supplies : Public Health Laboratory Services,
Carmarthen

Milk : Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Infectious Diseases : The infectious disease Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea, and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities: General Hospital facilities are provided for at Swansea Hospital, Morriston Hospital and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Services : There are two Ambulances in the district and they are under the control of the Breconshire County Council.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are five piped supplies in the area, four of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply, except in the case of a few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. There are no stand pipes supplies.

Date	Water Supply	Results
1.2.66	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
	Lion Supply	„
	Colbren Supply	„
8.3.66	Colbren Supply	„
	Garwleisiau	„
	Lion Supply	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
5.4.66	Colbren Supply	„
	Garwleisiau	„
	Lion Supply	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
11.5.66	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
	Colbren Supply	„
	Lion Supply	„
	Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory
15.6.66	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
	Colbren Supply	„
	Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory

Date	Water Supply	Results
5.7.66	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
	Ffrydiau Twrch	”
	Lion Supply	”
	Colbren Supply	”
31.8.66	Garwleisiau	”
	Lion Supply	”
	Colbren Supply	”
	Ffrydiau Twrch	”
13.9.66	Ffrydiau Twrch	”
	Lion Supply	”
	Garwleisiau	”
	Colbren Supply	”
18.10.66	Ffrydiau Twrch	”
	Lion Supply	”
	Colbren Supply	”
	Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory
21.11.66	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
	Lion Supply	”
	Colbren Supply	”
	Ffrydiau Twrch	”
19.12.66	Colbren Supply	”
	Lion Supply	”
	Garwleisiau	”
	Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory

The Public Health Inspector's Report

To : The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour of presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

34 one bedroom Old Age Pensioners Bungalows were completed and occupied during the year. 5 houses were repaired during the year and a further 21 houses were brought up to the Standard of Fitness required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

Routine inspections of Food Premises were made and advice given where necessary. The inspection of locally killed meat was maintained at 100%.

48 inspections were made under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act to which the Act applies and all comply with the requirements of the Act. There are no large establishments in the area practically all falling into the family business category.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-Inspections (Housing and Public Health Acts) :

Water Supply	9
Drainage	16
Housing Inspections	300
Infectious Diseases	3
Verminous Premises	0
Factories and Workshops	9
Licensed Premises	1
Refuse Collection and Disposal	124
Butchers	252
Canteens	4
Grocers	70
Fried Fish Shops	33
Bakehouses	3
Miscellaneous Food Visits	41
Food Preparing Premises	34
Ice Cream Premises	0
Tents, Vans and Sheds	11
Public Conveniences	35
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	17
Slaughterhouses	238
Offices and Shops Act	48
Schools	2
Hospitals	2
Dairies	0
Total	1252

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

(a) Total Number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year. (Public Health and Housing Acts).	
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	300
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	11
Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority	2

Action under the Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936	0
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	13
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	2
(a) By Owner	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts 1936	0
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(3) Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of undertaking given by owners under Section II	4
(4) Statutory Notices served under Water Act ..	0

(5) Number complied with	0
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	0
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined and tenements or rooms having been rendered fit.	0

NOTICES SERVED

Under the Housing Act :

Number of Informal Notices served	0
Number of Informal Notices complied with	0
Number of Formal Notices served	0
Number of Formal Notices complied with ..	0

Under the Public Health Act :

Number of Informal Notices served	12
Number of Informal Notices complied with	11
Number of Formal Notices served	2
Number of Formal Notices complied with ..	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Both collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and three collections weekly are made with the exception of main shopping centres where the collections are carried out daily. The total tonnage collected during the year was 7,699 tons.

Three sites are used for tipping, Pantmawr, Rheolau and Yniswen ; at these sites a measure of controlled tipping is practised. Waste material from building operations and

County Council road sweepings are used for covering purposes levelling and tidying up being done by the Bristol Tractor. Infestation on the tips is kept under control by the Rodent Operator.

DISINFECTION

Three houses were disinfected during the year which is a reflection on the low incidence of infectious diseases in the locality. Fumigation by formalin gas was carried out in these cases and a free supply of liquid disinfectant for the use of householders concerned in washing down the premises, bed-clothes, drains etc.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

A register of Fried Fish Shops is kept and five premises throughout the area have been registered. Inspections are made during the daytime when preparation for the evening's business is carried on, also occasional visits are made during the evening. I have no cause to report any serious breach of the regulations.

PRESERVED FOODS

Ten premises have been registered under the Food and Drugs Act as premises for the manufacture of preserved foods. These are butchers shops or butchery departments at Co-operative Stores where sausages are made. A separate room is used for the manufacturing process and a high standard of cleanliness is demanded at these premises. The premises including the utensils are inspected and examined thoroughly. Every effort is made to inspect these premises at least once a month more often than not during the hours of manufacturing.

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspections were systematically made at the Colbren and Cwmgiedd Slaughterhouses and with only two slaughterhouses to cope with and a limited amount of slaughtering it was possible to obtain almost 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered during the year. In all 245 visits were made for this purpose and the following is a list of animals inspected :

<i>Animals Inspected</i>	<i>Parts condemned Diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci</i>	<i>Whole Carcases Condemned. All diseases except Cysticerci.</i>
Beasts	92	153 lbs. Nil
Cows	10	22 lbs. Nil
Calves	Nil	Nil Nil
Sheep	1164	242 lbs. Nil
Pigs	46	Nil Nil

Meat imported into the district was also inspected from time to time.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year the following slaughterhouses were registered :

1. Danygraig, Colbren, occupied by Mr. John Jeffreys.
2. Glangiedd, Cwmgiedd, occupied by Mr. T. J. E. Thomas.

These slaughterhouses are inspected regularly, together with all animals slaughtered therein.

FOOD PREMISES

Food shops, canteens and restaurants were visited regularly and the Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all persons in charge or employed in such premises.

Following is a list of food condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption :

Corned Beef	.....	33 lbs.
Canned Fish	.....	10 lbs.
Canned Fruit & Vegetables	..	279 Tins
Other Foods	.....	76 Tins
Bacon	.....	31 lbs.
Canned Ham	.....	121 lbs.
Cheese	.....	32 lbs.
Meat at Slaughterhouses	....	NIL
Meat at Shops	.....	NIL

SEWAGE EFFLUENT

Samples of sewage effluent were taken at the Council's Sewage Works prior to being discharged into the River Tawe and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows :—

Sample No. 1 (28th March, 1966).

This effluent complied easily with the recommendations and showed that the purification plant was efficiently maintained.

Sample No. 2 (29th June, 1966)

This effluent was suitable for discharge into any stream.

Sample No. 3 (11th October, 1966)

This was a well purified effluent, most of the nitrogenous matter having been oxidised to nitrate. It conformed easily with Royal Commission requirements both as to matter in suspension and Biochemical Oxygen Demand. It was suitable for discharge into any freshwater stream and reflected credit on those in charge of the maintenance of the plant.

Sample No. 4 (29th December, 1966)

This was a well treated sewage effluent, and is fit for discharge to any inland waterway.

HOUSING

34 one bedroom Old Age Pensioners Bungalows, in accordance with the Surveyor's Register, became ready during the year and were allocated.

Repairs to existing Houses

Good use is being made of Standard and Discretionary Grants and Improvements carried out to existing houses including the installation of a bath, wash-hand basin, hot and cold water supply, W.C. and a food store. The Surveyor reports that the following improvements were carried out :—

Standard Grants	9	Grant Payable	£700
Discretionary Grants ..	12	Grant Payable	£3191
		Total	<u>£3891</u>

This means that 21 houses were brought up to the standard of fitness required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, thus saving the need of building this number of houses at the approximate cost of £54,600.

The work carried out was as follows :

No. of Baths installed	5
No. of Wash-hand basins	5
No. of Hot and Cold Water supply	6
No. of Water Closets	8
No. of Food Stores	4

**OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY
PREMISES ACT 1963**

Inspections were carried out to all premises covered by the Act and in all a total of 48 visits were made. The following is a synopsis of the information gathered from the survey ;

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. Registered</i>	<i>Persons Employed</i>
Offices	21	41
Retail Shops	25	53
Wholesale Shops	0	0
Catering Establishments	1	1
Fuel Storage Depot	1	8
Offices and Shops Combined	0	52
		<u>155</u>
		<u>48</u>

RAINFALL

Records supplied by Surveyor's Department

January	3.23 ins.
February	7.69 ins.
March	3.53 ins
April	6.70 ins.
May	6.14 ins.
June	4.24 ins.
July	3.31 ins.
August	6.10 ins.
September	4.38 ins
October	7.52 ins.
November	4.41 ins.
December	10.30 ins.
	<hr/>
	67.55 ins.
	<hr/>

RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows :

Refuse Tips	41
Premises	336
Disinfestations at farms	36

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector.

